

REMARKS

This is a full and timely response to the Office Action mailed March 22, 2005.

By this Amendment, claims 1-3 have been amended to incorporate the limitation (i.e. "*wherein the reference allowance ratio S_0 is set in a range of 9 to 30*") of claim 4 which has been canceled without prejudice in view thereof. Support for the claim amendments can be found throughout the specification and the original claims. Thus, claims 1-3 and 5 are pending in this application.

In view of these amendments, Applicant believes that all pending claims are in condition for allowance. Reexamination and reconsideration in light of the above amendments and the following remarks is respectfully requested.

Rejection under 35 U.S.C. §102

Claims 1-3, 5 and 6 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as allegedly being anticipated by Kamegawa et al. (U.S. Patent 5,710,718). Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection. However, to expedite the allowance of the present application, Applicant has amended claims 1-3 to incorporate the limitation (i.e. "*wherein the reference allowance ratio S_0 is set in a range of 9 to 30*") of non-rejected claim 4. Thus, claims 4 and 6 have been canceled without prejudice in view of such an amendment.

Applicant notes that in item 4 of the Action, the Examiner has indicated that claim 4 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitation of the base claim and any intervening claims. Applicant believes that the foregoing amendments correspond with the Examiner's request.


Thus, withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully requested.

CONCLUSION

For the foregoing reasons, all of the claims now pending in the present application are believed to be clearly patentable over the outstanding rejections. Accordingly, favorable reconsideration of the claims in light of the above remarks is courteously solicited. If the Examiner has any comments or suggestions that could place this application in even better form, the Examiner is requested to telephone the undersigned attorney at the below-listed number.

Dated: May 19, 2005

Respectfully submitted,

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Should additional fees be necessary in connection with the filing of this paper, or if a petition for extension of time is required for timely acceptance of same, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge Deposit Account No. 180013 for any such fees; and applicant(s) hereby petition for any needed extension of time.